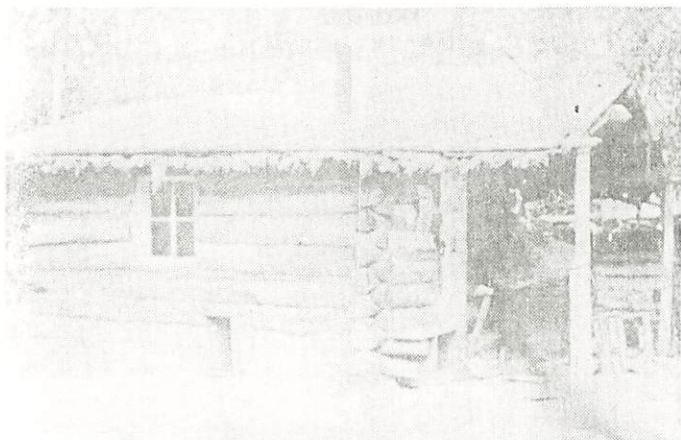


## *Hanna Post Office*

### *History of Post Offices*



Hanna Post Office in river bottoms by Fabrizio's



Hanna Post Office today

#### *HANNA POST OFFICE*

The first mail service was brought into the valley to the settlers by horseback from Heber and Kamas, by Chancy Lee, Hi Jones, William Wadley, and Monroe Giles.

In 1909 the first post office was built in a log cabin by the rodeo grounds in Hanna where Squaw Creek joins the river. William Hanna was the first postmaster and the town of Hanna was named after him.

John Pilling was the first mail contractor to carry the mail from Duchesne to Hanna.

Following him Bill and Parley Turnbow were the carriers. They brought the mail up from Duchesne two trips a week by wagon or buggy in the summer and by

sleigh in the winter. They drove for about four years.

John Gingell was the next carrier and drove for about one year.

George Robins was the next mail carrier and drove for about three years.

When William Hanna died Earl Atwood became the next postmaster and the post office was moved up where it is now located.

Earl was postmaster for over thirty years. When he retired Ray L. Hackett became postmaster on August 10, 1949.

Dean Powell got the bid as mail carrier in 1925 and drove for about fifty years until 1975.

Ray left in November 1972 and Crystal Hackett has been the postmistress since he left.

Kathleen Kielbasa is now the mail driver and has been since Dean Powell retired in 1975.

#### *HISTORY OF TABIONA POST OFFICE*

By Thelma D. Nye, Retired Postmaster

Tabiona was first opened for homesteading in 1906, but it was a few years before families came to live on their homesteads the year around. This established the need for some sort of mail service. The mail was hauled from Colton to Duchesne by stagecoach. The people of Tabiona had to arrange to get their mail from Duchesne.

As near as I have been able to learn, the first gathering place for mail was at the home of Nate and Mary Nye Wilson. Their ranch was below VanTassell's ranch, near the foot of what is now known locally as the Golden Stairs. Bob Maxwell made many trips by horseback to Duchesne to bring the mail to Postmaster Nate Wilson, at least once a week. Other men or families who happened to be going to Duchesne would also pick up the mail for everyone, leaving it with Nate who would see that it was delivered to the addresses.

Mary Ann Maxwell, Minnie Hamilton's mother, provided the next home for the post office, at the Maxwell ranch across the river. Delivery from Duchesne was still only once or twice a week to Postmaster Maxwell, carried mostly on horse back by volunteers or people who just happened to be going to Duchesne. Folks still would have to use horses or walk to the Maxwell home to get their mail.

Later Tom Hicken opened a store in Tabiona and was appointed postmaster. The delivery was still irregular and it is not known whether a regular carrier was appointed yet.

After the Hickens had the post office for awhile, Bruce and Leona Maxwell opened a store in Tabiona and Bruce then became the postmaster, reserving a corner in the store for the mail.

John Pilling, who had a ranch above Tabiona, began





River at a place called Pawnee Village, a deserted Indian town, the wagon train halted to repair a bridge. Robert Gardner was several teams in the rear. He went forward to help with the work. He had gone but a few steps when his high school teacher...



Old Post Office Building on Main Street

carrying the mail from Duchesne by car for some years.

In 1922, the first definite year we know, Jessie L. Maxwell, wife of J. Lawrence Maxwell, became postmistress for Tabiona. Lawrence and Bruce were brothers and Leona and Jessie Nye were sisters married to the Maxwell brothers. Mrs. Nate Wilson, the former Mary Nye, was also a sister, an unusual situation interest in the post office. They were also sisters to David W. Nye, who lived in Tabiona for several years.

Jessie Maxwell moved the post office to a small building they built near their home in Tabiona. She saw many changes in the postal system during the thirty-eight years she was postmistress. The mail was no longer an irregular delivery proposition, but finally arrived and was dispatched every day. C. Dean Powell, of Duchesne, became a regular star route carrier from Duchesne to Tabiona, then he went on to deliver mail at Hanna. He served as a star route carrier for fifty years. People living on the road Dean traveled, began to receive their mail in sacks which were fastened by clothespins, safety pins, steel snap buckles, etc. The sacks with the corresponding fasteners were fastened to the arm of a post which was placed on the road so Dean could reach them without getting out of his truck. A special name was given to these sacks made out of overalls, canvas, or any heavy material the owner may have had on hand. They were called "Pesticators."

In the post office they hung on a row of hooks, waiting for the mail to be placed in them by the carrier. Kathy Kielbasa is presently in her fifth year as a star route carrier. She became a mail carrier when Dean Powell retired.

Thelma D. Nye was sworn in as postmaster on June 30, 1960 and served for twenty years, until July 1, 1980. How Postmaster Nye remembers the "pesticators."



Present Post Office Building

A change came when the postal department, known as the postal service, required all star and route deliveries be in regular-sized steel containers containing names and numbers on the outside and hoped weather tight inside. The customer is required by law keep easy access for the driver who is not supposed leave his vehicle enroute. Mail is carried between offices in locked pouches for first class, priority mail, special delivery, certified or registered mail, which can only be opened by a permanently attached key in each office. The label on the pouch determines its destination. Parcels and other mail receive equally carefully handling, although is not carried in locked sacks. Large offices are almost completely mechanized with the strides made by electronics nowadays, so parcels must be wrapped and prepared for machine handling.

Tabiona has had three postmarks in its history. It was just Tabby, Utah, as the town was first known. When the town became Tabiona, Utah when it was incorporated under that name. Then came zip code, so the postmark reads Tabiona, Utah 84072. They are now talking about nine-digit zip codes. Oh my, changes, changes! I'm twenty years from now will find the post offices will be house-to-house delivery via satellite. Thelma can hardly wait.

The present Officer-in-Charge in Tabiona is Wil Groot, just call him "Bill". He is a career employee from the Sandy Post Office in Sandy, Utah 84070, a fine young man.

Rumor has it a new postmaster will be sworn in sometime in early September, 1980.

The post office will remain in the same location in the middle of the town of Tabiona.

Don Young was sworn in as postmaster in September 1980.